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Berlin W.
Friedrichstrasse 58,
August 18, 1873

Dear Professor Gray,

I duly received the tinbox containing
very fine specimens of the following
three marine phanerogamæ viz:

Thalassia testudinum König (2 fruiting spec.)
Cymodocea maritima Archa (2 flowering spec.)
Halodule Wrightii Archa. (barren)

gathered by Count Portales near
Key West, Florida.

I do not think that these 3 species,
the same, which Mr. Wright has
brought in so excellent specimens from
Cuba, are recorded hitherto from
the U. S.

It would be highly desirable to ascer-
tain whether the "*Zostera marina*"
of Prof. Chapman from West-Florida
is the true plant; or, which is not impro-
bable, that *Thalassia*, which is called
in the country "eelgrass", as Count
Portales writes, was taken for it.

and the description of the latter was
copied from any botanical text-
book, yours probably.

At all event, it would be highly
recommendable to the coast-survey-offi-
cers to gather specimens of these
plants from all interesting points
of your shores, especially of from
those of the Pacific.

The name "Turtle grass" from which
that of Thalassia testudinum ^{took} has its origin
is given in Key West, teste Ponsstales,
to Gymnodocia manatorum. He observes
also that it is the favourite food
of Chelonia mydas. In Catesby's
Historia nat. Carol. this tortoise is
figured with the well-marked
Thalassia testudinum (from the
Bahama's); I have seen a specimen
gathered by Catesby now existing in
the British Museum.

My warmest thanks to you and Count
Ponsstales for these very important ma-

terials!

I am, most respectfully,

Yours,

P. Archeson